

Minutes

Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Special Session, Thursday, May 9, 2002, 8:30 a.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, May 9, 2002, 8:30 a.m., at the Hollifield Leadership Center, located at 6692 Valwood Road, Conover, NC. The purpose of the special meeting was for the annual spring planning retreat.

Present were Chairman W. Steve Ikerd, Vice-Chair Marie H. Huffman, and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Barbara G. Beatty, and Dan A. Hunsucker.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Deputy County Manager Steven D. Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, and County Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel.

1. Chairman Ikerd called the special meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the planning retreat and said the purpose of the special meeting was to review the status of current issues.

Chairman Ikerd welcomed Candidates Lynn Lail and Gerald Kamp. He also welcomed Bob Ballenger from the County Government Class. Ms. Lynn Lail, candidate arrived later and Chairman Ikerd welcomed her.

2. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Huffman said she looked forward to the planning of the Small Areas and she felt the emergency services update was important.

Commissioner Beatty thanked the Hollifield Center and said it was a great facility. She said the Hollifield Center participated in the County Expo for the Faith Community. She thanked Nan Lacey from the Hollifield Center.

Commissioner Barnes said the county needs to support infrastructure. She said there is a need for housing which is dependent on water and sewer. She said there is also a need educational infrastructure.

Commissioner Dan Hunsucker said he hoped the citizens realize the Commissioners are doing the best they can. He thanked County Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel for her work on the Dialogue on Freedom program. He said there were a lot of bright kids in attendance at that program.

3. Solid Waste Franchise.

Deputy County Manager Steven D. Wyatt gave a PowerPoint presentation on solid waste management.

The North Carolina General Statutes §153A-136 regulation of solid wastes states a county may by ordinance regulate the storage, collection, transportation, use, disposal, and other disposition of solid waste. Such an ordinance may:

(3) Grant a franchise to one or more persons for the exclusive right to commercially collect or dispose of solid wastes within all or a defined portion of the county and prohibit any person from commercially collecting or disposing of solid wastes in that area.

He reviewed the Counties that franchise.

The board of commissioners may set the terms of any franchise, except that no franchise may be granted for a period exceeding 30 years, nor may any franchise by its terms impair the authority of the board of commissioners to regulate fees as authorized by this section. (§153A-122 must be referenced with §153A-136).(Catawba County's first franchise was enacted in 1969.)

Current Franchise Agreement for Solid Waste Collection expires June 30, 2004

Mr. Wyatt reviewed the following North Carolina General Statutes: 505.02; 505.03; 505.04; and 505.05.

Mr. Wyatt reviewed the following services currently provided:

1. Curbside collection of residential waste (under contract)
2. Curbside collection of residential recyclables (under contract)
3. Operation of five convenience centers (under contract)
4. Commercial and industrial waste collection (under contract)
5. Construction and demolition waste collection (under contract)
6. Household Hazardous Waste Annual Collection Event (Annual donation of equipment and advertising)
7. County Historical Events (Annual donation of equipment)

Possible Additions to Services Provider:

1. Curbside collection of white goods
2. Operation of paint collection, storage and disposal facility at Blackburn
3. Support annual HHW collection event at no cost to County

Guiding Principles are Cost, Service, and Commitment.

Mr. Wyatt said Catawba County citizens and businesses should be assured that a range of solid waste disposal services are provided at a reasonable cost.

The franchisee should be an active contributor to the community and participant in improving the quality of life - an exemplary corporate citizen. The franchisee should be committed to the long-term success of the County's solid waste management plan and program.

Mr. Wyatt reviewed the following options:

1. Renew/extend existing contract
2. Renew/extend with negotiated changes
3. Formally request proposals
4. No franchising

Staff recommended that the decision be made by the end of this calendar year.

Chairman Ikerd said recycling is important and said some carriers only want to pick up profitable parts.

Commissioner Barnes said it would be helpful in managing costs to get under one umbrella and there are issues for future computer equipment and white goods, etc. The county needs to look at all issues.

Commissioner Huffman said she would like to know how service is provided to other counties. Utilities and Engineering Director Barry Edwards said he would provide Ms. Huffman with that information within the next week.

Commissioner Hunsucker said more pollution is likely with more than one provider.

Commissioner Beatty said GDS does an excellent job. She asked Drew Isenhour with GDS about air quality and what can GDS do to help clean the air?

Mr. Isenhour said they are looking at cleaner diesel engines, alternative fuels and battery-powered diesels. They are working on a better emissions maintenance program based on hours of operation.

Commissioner Beatty said air quality is important. She recommended a tour of the facility, improved accountability of our collection sites, look at hours and days of operations, and collection sites. She said we must have future environmental plans.

Mr. Lundy asked if a weight-based system was viable?

Mr. Isenhour said weight-based systems have not been successful due to the reliability of the equipment and it takes accuracy for a successful system.

Chairman Ikerd said, regarding landfill efficiency, the county is on the cutting edge by meeting regulatory requirements and being cost effective. He said there are no tax dollars in solid waste and the program needs to be looked at as a whole. He requested that staff come back with recommendations after looking at collection sites and justify the need to keep them open. He said why have collection sites if cost effective collection is available.

Commissioner Barnes said she would like to see competitive rate comparisons and would prefer a franchise.

Chairman Ikerd said the issue for the citizens is cost.

4. Landfill Site Alternatives.

County Attorney Robert Oren Eades addressed the Commissioners regarding the selection of an alternative site for the expansion of Blackburn Landfill. The County Attorney reviewed with the Commissioners the history of the County's work to expand the Blackburn Landfill and explained to the Commissioners the necessity of complying with North Carolina General Statute 153A-136(c) which requires the County Commissioners to consider alternative sites, pertinent socioeconomic and demographic data, and to hold a public hearing prior to selecting a site for expansion of an existing landfill. The statute provides:

(c) The board of commissioners of a county shall consider alternative sites and socioeconomic and demographic data and shall hold a public hearing prior to selecting or approving a site for a new sanitary landfill that receives residential solid waste that is located within one mile of an existing sanitary landfill within the State. The distance between an existing and a proposed site shall be determined by measurement between the closest points on the outer boundary of each site. The definitions set out in G.S. 130A-290 apply to this subsection. As used in this subsection:

- (1) "Approving a site" refers to prior approval of a site under G.S. 130A-294(a)(4).
- (2) "Existing sanitary landfill" means a sanitary landfill that is in operation or that has been in operation within the five-year period immediately prior to the date on which an application for a permit is submitted.
- (3) "New sanitary landfill" means a sanitary landfill that includes areas not within the legal description of an existing sanitary landfill as set out in the permit for the existing sanitary landfill.
- (4) "Socioeconomic and demographic data" means the most recent socioeconomic and demographic data compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census and any additional socioeconomic and demographic data submitted at the public hearing.

The County Attorney indicated that he and staff members had met with engineering firms to discuss this requirement and the methods by which Catawba County could meet its requirements. After having done so, he and staff members believed it appropriate for the County to retain Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), an engineering firm experienced in assisting Counties expand landfills and specifically in complying with the requirements of Section 153A-136(c).

The County Attorney also noted that CDM will meet frequently with County staff throughout the process of identifying and considering alternative sites. At the beginning of the process, site selection factors will be identified, some of which are legally mandated and some of which will be established by the Board of Commissioners which will then be used to evaluate potential sites for the expansion of Blackburn Landfill. That process will conclude in a report to the Commissioners made by CDM near the end of this year. Following that report, the Commissioners will hold the required public hearing to consider public input received, and will subsequently select one of the sites identified by CDM.

5. Library Study Report.

Library Directory Karen Foss gave a PowerPoint presentation. She said Catawba County Library-Main was located at 115 West C Street, Newton; was built in 1976; contains 30,000 square feet; 65,000 books; with an annual circulation of 214,000; has 21 public access computers; and is open 65 hours per week.

Recommendations for Main Library:

1. Renovate lower level to accommodate Genealogy Room, and work space
2. Renovate existing Rhodes Room for computer lab
3. Replace worn carpet
4. Expand parking 30 spaces
5. Renovate back entrance to include single public entrance with enclosed stairway and elevator

Ms. Foss said the Sherrills Ford Branch, located at 8456 Sherrills Ford Road, first pod was built in 1980 and expanded in 1990 to 2,765 sq feet; contains 16,000 books; Circulation 55,000; 3 computers; and is open 42 hours per week.

Recommendations for Sherrills Ford Branch Library:

1. Plan for construction of new library
2. Could be located in proximity to elementary school or post office

The Southwest Branch Library, located at 2944 Hwy 127 South, Hickory; was opened in 1997 in Westover Plaza; containing 7,965 square feet; 26,000 books; circulation 105,000; 6 public access computers, and is open 57.5 hours per week.

Recommendations for the Southwest Branch Library:

1. Locate branch in a permanent location
2. County owned property adjacent to the Propst EMS base would be adequate for new facility

The Maiden Branch Library, located at 11 South A Avenue, Maiden; built in 1990; cost shared with the Town of Maiden; the facility contains 2,005 square feet; 14,000 Books; circulation 41,000; 2 computers; and is open 42 hours per week.

Recommendation for the Maiden Branch Library:

1. Work with Town of Maiden to expand the library within the current facility as feasible and as desired by the community.

St. Stephens Branch Library, located at 3225 Springs Road, Hickory; was built for one million dollars in 1989; contains 10,200 square feet; 38,000 books; annual circulation 125,000; 8 public access computers; and is open 57.5 hours per week.

Recommendation for the St. Stephens Branch Library:

1. Increase parking by 12 spaces in area behind library

Conover Express Branch, located at 101 First Street East, Conover, opened within space available in Conover City Hall in 1999; containing 800 square feet; Computer lab with 12 computers; 6,000 Books; circulation 15,000; and is open 20 hours per week.

Recommendation for Conover Express Branch Library:

1. Work with City of Conover to expand hours of operation as desired by the community.

Claremont Branch Library, located at 3288 East Main Street, Claremont; opened in February 2002; contains 2,400 sq ft within Claremont City Hall; 3,000 Books; 3 Computers; and is open 20 hours per week.

Recommendation for Claremont Branch Library:

1. Work with City of Claremont to expand hours of operation as desired by community.

Ms. Foss reviewed the following priorities for Library Development:

Renovations to the Main Library

Increased Parking for Main Library and St. Stephens Branch

New Sherrills Ford Branch

Permanent Location for the Southwest Branch

Ms. Foss reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan. She said the Library Facility Plan is dependent upon the amount of funding available for capital improvement.

Library Capital Improvement Cost Estimates

2002/2003	Costs Estimates	
	Genealogy/Lab Renovations	\$200,000
	Architect & Engineers	20,000
	TOTAL	\$220,000
2002/2003	Funding	
	Genealogy	\$200,000
	From Completed Project	20,000
	TOTAL	\$220,000
2003/2004	Costs Estimates	
	Main Back Entrance	\$240,000
	Carpet	50,000
	Parking (Main & St.)	84,000
	Architects & Engineers	30,000
	TOTAL	\$404,000
2003/2004	Funding	
	From Capital Reserve	\$194,000
	From Library Expansion	110,000
	Library Reinventing	50,000
	Finance Reinventing	50,000
	TOTAL	\$404,000
2006/2007	Costs Estimates	
	Sherrills Ford Reserve	\$300,000
	Funding	
	From General Fund	\$300,000
2007/2008	Costs Estimates	
	Sherrills Ford Reserve	\$500,000
	Funding	
	From General Fund	\$500,000
2008/2009	Costs Estimates	
	S F Library-Construction	\$400,000
	Southwest Library Reserve	\$100,000
	Funding	
	From General Fund	\$500,000
2009/2010	Costs Estimates	
	Southwest Library Construction	\$300,000
	Funding	
	From General Fund	\$300,000
2010/2011	Costs Estimates	
	Southwest Reserve	\$400,000
	Funding	
	From General Fund	\$400,000

Commissioner Barnes recommended looking at co-locations with schools and public libraries and evaluate the possibilities.

Ms. Foss said a possibility for a library at Sherrills Ford could be behind school and for Fred T. Foard within a mile.

Commissioner Barnes recommended the possibility of a library in front of Fred T. Foard.

Commissioner Beatty recommended looking at the pros and cons, costs and feasibility.

Chairman Ikerd said cooperation with cities is important and to use the best financial support partnerships.

Ms. Foss thanked the Board for its support of the library.

Commissioner Huffman said the Southwest Branch has worked well.

Mr. Wyatt said demographic growth patterns are expanding from Highway 127 South to Propst Crossroads.

Commissioner Huffman recommended cooperating and sharing resources with Hickory.

At 10:35 a.m. Chairman Ikerd called for a 15 minute break. At 10:50 a.m. Chairman Ikerd called the meeting back to order.

6. Emergency Services Strategic Plan Implementation Update.

Assistant County Manager Mick Berry gave a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the following items:

Strategic Study Update

-911 Center Transition

- All new positions have been filled

First Responder - 4 Minutes

-Pilot with Claremont and Hickory- initial goal 6 minute average first response

-Chad Lackey- Chief Hickory Rescue

-Jason Crooks- Chief Claremont Rescue

EMS response time below 8 minute goal

-Advancement in Treatment & Technology

-12 Point EKG = Diagnosing in the field exactly where the heart is failing. Reducing time to treatment by 1.5 hours.

-Drug intervention to create protected airway for conscious patients.

-Emergency cryothyrotomy- opening an airway through the throat.

-10 Staff Critical Care Certified = "A Hospital on Wheels"

-Skilled paramedics and empowering medical director = Top 5 system in the State for treatment.

Mr. Berry said the fire districts are being modified.

Mr. Moody made comments about changing the Sherrills Ford/Denver fire service district. He said Sherrills Ford would take over the portion of the Denver Fire Department that is located in Catawba County. Staff is working on maps and agreements to become effective July 1, 2003, which must be approved by the Department of Insurance and then the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Beatty asked about benefits for volunteer tax credits and how they are passed on to volunteers?

Mr. Moody said they are currently looking at the issue.

Commissioner Barnes said the NCACC is considering the issue of tax credits.

EMS Manager Dave Weldon briefly reviewed EMS technology and treatment advances. He said they are in the process of submitting a system plan due to new state regulations.

Commissioner Beatty asked about defibrillator training.

Mr. Moody said five rescue squads have received training and Sherrills Ford is currently training.

Commissioner Barnes asked about the E-911 surcharge status.

Mr. Berry said this issue has been sent to the Legislative Study Committee and the committee may recommend a bill to broaden what the money could be spent on.

7. Planning Issues.

Interim Planning and Development Director John Witherspoon said the communication tower outcome is in the process of being updated. Mr. Witherspoon said the Natural Heritage inventories are currently being conducted in the county for endangered species of animals and plants. He said staff is in the process of preparing a enhancement program grant application to be submitted to the NC Department of Transportation for a 80/20 grant match for public access of Bunker Hill Covered Bridge.

a. Regional Planning Efforts.

Assistant Planner Richard Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation. He gave an update on the Small Area Plans.

1. Mountain View SAP
 - Community review of draft plan held in November 2001
 - Planning Board public hearing held in February 2002
 - Two joint meetings of Committee and Planning Board to review hearing comments
 - Baker Mountain protection re-evaluated. Looking at minimum lot size instead of "no development above 1,100 foot elevation"
 - Planning Board to conduct second public hearing on May 20, 2002
 - Planning Board and Board of Commissioners joint review on June 17, 2002
 - Tentative date of July 8, 2002 for Board of Commissioners public hearing
2. Sherrills Ford SAP
 - Committee Completed recommendations in February 2002
 - Community review of draft plan held on April 16, 2002
 - Approximately 100 citizens attended
 - General support for recommendations
 - Some additional areas requested to be reviewed such as speed limits and turn lanes on specific roads
 - Committee to review community comments on draft plan
 - Tentative call for Planning Board public hearing in June 2002
 - Committee will meet jointly with Planning Board to review comments at hearing
 - Anticipate Board of Commissioners public hearing in September 2002
3. St. Stephens/Oxford SAP
 - Committee has completed transportation and land use recommendations
 - Anticipate completing draft recommendations in July 2002
 - Community meeting to be held in early Fall
 - Public hearings in early 2003

St. Stephens/Oxford SAP Land Use Recommendations:

- Low density in eastern section of district = 1 acre lot size
- Catawba River corridor = 1 acre lot size with 100 ft frontage requirement (currently 75').
 - If clustered, not less than .75 acre lot
- Medium density in central portion of district = .50 acre lot size without public water and 15,000 square foot lot with public water

St. Stephens/Oxford SAP Recommendations for residential rezoning:

1. Rezoning of 63% of the area to R-1 (Does not allow manufactured homes)
2. Basis for rezonings:
 - Corridor along lakes/river based on existing development pattern
 - Buffer around existing stick-built subdivisions
 - Hwy. 16 corridor
 - Scenic corridor along Riverbend and Oxford School Road area

4. Balls Creek SAP

- Committee has completed transportation and land use recommendations
- Anticipate completing draft
- Community meeting to be held in late Fall 2002
- Public hearings in early 2003

Balls Creek SAP Land Use Recommendations:

- Low residential density in east/southeast portion of district = 2 acre lot size
- Medium residential density in western portion of district = 1 acre lot size
- High residential density in northwest section = .75 acre lot size
- Multi-use village area around Abernethy Center

Balls Creek SAP Recommendations for residential rezonings:

- Rezoning of approximately 52% of the district
 - 39% rezoned to R-1 (no manufactured homes)
 - 12.6% rezoned to R-3 (no singlewide manufactured homes)
- Basis for rezonings is preservation of historical and rural character in addition to trend of existing development

At 12:10 p.m. Chairman Ikerd called for a lunch break. At 12:40 p.m. Chairman Ikerd called the meeting back to order.

b. Strategic Growth Plan Update.

Assistant County Planner Richard B. Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation.

REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

- What is going on?
- Where are we?
- Where do we go from here?

Burke County

- Small Area Plans (SAP)- one completed
- Next SAP likely to be in the George Hildebran area
- RPO- Interstate 40 Corridor Study to be completed (outdated interchanges 1960)

Caldwell County

- 3 of their 6 planned SAPs have been completed
- Last one completed was in Dudley Shoals near the county line
- Remainder of SAPs likely to be consolidated
- County erosion control measures

Alexander County

- Embraced the SAP concept
- Unable to begin process due to budget constraints
- Adopted Subdivision Ordinance in late 2000
- Adopted Zoning Ordinance 2001

Iredell County

- 4 SAPs completed and 1 in the process
- 4 SAPs in the southern portion of the county
- Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RPO) with Cleveland, Lincoln, and Gaston counties
- Upper Rocky River Study with Cabarrus, Rowan, and Mecklenburg counties

- Farmland Ordinance
- Some involvement with regional activities

Lincoln County

- Adopted new Land Use Plan late 2001
- RPO with Iredell, Gaston, and Cleveland counties
- No SAP efforts being considered at this time
- Some involvement with regional activities

Catawba County

- Lead the way with SAP initiatives
- Have many Smart Growth actions in place
- Setting the pace for many to follow
- Involved in many regional initiatives: Voices and Choices, Regional Elected Officials Environmental Forums, RPO, MPO
- NCAPA presentations
- Our reputation supersedes us

Voices and Choices

- Created as a result of the 1998 Regional Environmental Summit
- Includes 14 county region around Charlotte (NC and SC)
- Goal is to engage citizens in building environmental and economic sustainability
- Uses consensus-based decision making to advocate policies and programs that protect our region's quality of life and promote sustainable growth
- Involves citizens, leaders and public officials from all over this region

EPA elected officials forums

- Promotes Smart Growth initiatives
- Participants are public officials from the Charlotte region
- Calls for commitments to action items in the Smart Growth "Tool Box"
- Promotes regional cooperation

Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

- Transportation planning for rural areas outside of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Chartered on October 9, 2001
- County represented on RPO by local elected official and planning staff member
- Includes Catawba, Burke, Caldwell and Alexander counties and municipalities within these counties where not included in MPO

Where do we go from here?

- Continue progressive and joint efforts within Unifour Region- Hazard Mitigation efforts and Air Quality initiatives
- Increase coordination with Charlotte region
- Continue to recognize and plan for the effect of the Charlotte region on our area
- Increase coordination between Councils of Government
- Consider regional regulations where feasible

Continue our Forward progression

- Centralina Council of Governments has asked our Western Piedmont Council of Governments to serve as an ex-officio member on their RPO
- All municipalities and counties within the Unifour Region now have zoning guidelines of some kind
- We lead our region and are well ahead of most in the Charlotte region

Mr. Witherspoon gave the following quote from Secretary of State Colin Powell "When people see something new come along they are terrified, but if it is the right thing to do, you do it anyway."

Planner Mary George held a brief question and answer session.

Chairman Ikerd and Commissioner Barnes suggested that there be a joint meeting scheduled with Lincoln County.

8. Air Quality.

Public Health Director Barry Blick gave a summary of the following major air quality issues:

- Many say progress is being made
- Others say air quality is bad and getting worse
- Much improvement in the science
- More and more debate, court action, and attempts at regulation . . 1990
- All sectors- - government, private industry, academic, advocacy groups - - getting involved and informed
- Air Quality becomes more prominent public issue

Many causes of bad air; natural, man made, man caused:

- Lung disease
- Chest pain
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Throat irritation
- Bronchitis
- Heart disease
- Emphysema
- Asthma
- Increase illness and premature death

Impacts on environment can be profound

- Damage to plant life
- Reduced crops production
- Ruined forests and national parks
- Destroyed recreation areas
- Blighted urban landscapes

Bad air burdens our private economy and increases government cost

- Productivity Levels
- Technology Costs
- Regulation

Air is a basic requirement for life and well-being

What will "clean air" cost?

When is air clean enough?

EPA Standards

- Particulate Matter (Soot)
- Ozone (Smog)

Failure to meet EPA Standards

- Limits on community growth
- Financial Penalties
- Loss of Federal and State Transportation Grants
- Sanctions on business and government
- Legal actions

Much depends on "attainment" vs. "Non-attainment" designations for "areas"

Review of EPA Activities Since 1997

- A new ozone standard requires states to create plans
- Public Hearings and debate
- EPA sued

U.S. Supreme Court decision

- Upholds EPA Standards
- Orders New Implementation Strategy for Ozone

State Governments Test the Air

- Catawba County among those that appear to be headed for "non-attainment" in 1997-98
- Community Leaders come together and form Catawba County Air Quality Committee

Catawba County Air Quality Committee

- COG Facilitates
- Public/Private Representation
- Strategies to Protect County from Regulatory Impacts
- Consensus about Plans and Actions
- Interaction with State Regulators
- Linkages with Regional Organizations
- Public Education/Media Coverage
- Ozone: The Main Concern

Current Status of EPA Air Quality Standards Implementation

Particulate Matter (Soot)

- No court action
- National and State Plan Development
- Collection of Three Year Trend Data
- Emphasis on Utilities
- Designation of "non-attainment areas" not until 2004-2005

Ozone (Smog)

- Standard is Now Firm
- Stateholder Involvement
- Limited Activity with the States
- Analyzing Numerous Alternatives for Approach and Schedule of Standard Implementation

EPA's Schedule for Implementation (as of now)

- Propose rule making on implementation approach in Summer of 2002
- During 2003 . . . Ask states to update recommended designations ...
Promulgate air quality designations in mid-2004
- State Implementation Plans . . . Likely to be due in 2007 and 2008 time frame
- With attainment dates ranging from 2007 to 2019 or longer
- No implementation plans to issue final designation of non-attainment areas until EPA finalizes implementation strategy for the standards

Major Issues for Catawba County

- Avoidance of non-attainment designation or conversion to attainment ASAP
- Economic impacts related to non-compliance and compliance
- Public awareness and education
- Federal, regional, state, area and local approaches
- Local Open Burning Regulations
- Implementation of "Air Quality Improvement Tool Box for Catawba County"

"Air Quality Improvement Tool Box" still in development and covers

- Behavior Modification
- Energy Conservation
- Government and Private Sector Roles
- Land use
- Mobil pollution sources
- Open burning abatement
- transportation

Catawba County Ozone Awareness and Preventions Program

- Partner with COG and others
- Health Department lead agency
- Stresses employee awareness & involvement
- Sponsorship of events
- Public Awareness Campaigns

- Targets school students
- Ozone alerts
- Achieve "Best Role Model-Government Category"
- Based on "Tool Box" approaches

Key Points of Consideration for Action

- Be proactive!
- Input into EPA rules about standards implementation
- Track federal and state progress
- Regulatory and policy positions
- Plan now and update
- Resource development and use . . . Knowledge, ability and action
- Partnerships with broad membership
- Involvement with national, regional, state, county, and municipal groups and issues

Commissioner Beatty complimented Mr. Blick and his department for working on air quality issues.

Mr. Wyatt said staff could use public access TV for getting information to the public.

Commissioner Barnes said air standards are a moving target.

Chairman Ikerd said additional sites for LCD would keep trucks off the road.

9. Tax Revaluation Update.

Tax Administrator Randy Moose gave a brief update. He said the process is going well and they are three weeks ahead of schedule.

A. Progress Update

1. Final Field Review
2. Value Increases – what to expect

Mr. Moose said the projected increases in the tax base as a result of the 2003 revaluation over the current tax base for residential is 14.7%; commercial/industrial is 9.2%; and the average increase overall is 13.2%.

B. Remaining Calendar

1. Schedule of Values adoption procedure
 - a. Presentation of 2003 Schedule of Values to Board of Commissioners (mid-August, 2002)
 - b. Public Hearing to consider Schedule of Values (early September, 2002)
 - c. Formal adoption of Schedule of Values (mid-September, 2002)
 - d. Mailing of new property valuation notices (mid-to-late November, 2002)
 - e. Informal hearings with County appraisal staff (December, 2002)
 - f. Board of Equalization and Review hearings (beginning April, 2003)
 - g. Other avenues of appeal

Mr. Moose reviewed N. C. General Statute 105-317 (c) which addresses adoption of Schedule of Values.

10. Closing Comments:

- a. Deputy County Manager Steve Wyatt introduced the following resolution for revenue sources and recommended that the Commissioners adopt the resolution.

Resolution No. 2002-11
Resolution Requesting That Local Government Revenue Sources
Be Made Secure

WHEREAS, the county of Catawba is required by North Carolina law to operate and maintain a balanced budget and comply with the provisions of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act; and

WHEREAS, the county of Catawba is required to maintain a sufficient fund balance to operate in a fiscally sound manner and to have adequate reserves in case of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners have a responsibility to provide for the health, safety and well being of the citizens of this community by providing necessary services; and

WHEREAS, the ability of county governments to borrow for capital infrastructure needs is dependent on reliable revenue sources for repayment; and

WHEREAS, adequate revenues are required to carry out the above mentioned responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Catawba County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the General Assembly enact legislation that will secure the local government revenue sources and ensure that these revenues are distributed to local governments on a timely basis as set forth by the state's General Statutes.

This 9th day of May, 2002.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman, Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. County Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel gave a brief report on illegal dumping.

Emergency Services Director Charles Moody gave the following three examples of hazardous waste dumping: 1) Discharge of hydrocarbons along highways; 2) dumping of drums containing hazardous waste; and 3) discharge of any type of hazardous waste into streams.

Chairman Ikerd asked what can be done to impact the problem or issue?

Ms. Bechtel said information can be sent to the media and increased law enforcement.

Commissioner Barnes said it takes a lot of manpower for code enforcement.

Chairman Ikerd said there needs to be a public information campaign on illegal dumping.

- c. Mr. Lundy said the budget hearings would be held May 23 and 24 beginning at 1:15 p.m. and the budget public hearing would be held May 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Barnes commented on NCCBI and said from local reports she would hope we would endorse session limits. She thanked staff for doing a good job on the budget. She said it was a good plan not to spend and to cut services.

Commissioner Huffman said she appreciated the County staff and is aware additional staff is needed.

Commissioner Hunsucker said he appreciated all the information and work provided by County staff.

Mr. Lundy said he had concerns about the public understanding of the budget situation and the opening of Bakers Mountain Park.

Chairman Ikerd said Bakers Mountain has been a multi-year project from 1988 until now.

Commissioner Barnes said there are capital needs in our libraries, schools and courts and it is overwhelming. She said the county is five years behind with capital needs.

Chairman Ikerd thank staff and everyone for the support and said there was a lot of work in progress.

11. At 1:50 p.m. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

J. Thomas Lundy
County Manager, Deputy County Clerk